DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Strike action against new army

East German shops treble sales

Sales trebled in the state trading shops of the German Democratic Republic in 1951 compared to 1950, owing to falling prices, better quality and increased purchasing power resulting from the Five Year Plan.

The fall in prices was so sharp that although the quantity of goods sold was three times as great, the cash taken in was only 60 percent above the 1950 figure.

Wages rising

During 1952, second year of the Five Year Plan, industrial production will be increased by over 13 percent, labour productivity in nationalised industry will go up over 11 percent, and wages will be increased nearly five percent on the average. More sweeping price reductions are also expected in the course of the year.

Main tasks in this year's plan are the increase in the production of standard machine tools, bigger production of coal, copper and other minerals, and the expansion of the steel and chemical industries.

Consumer goods industries are not being neglected, however, as the trebled shop sales show, and by 1955 there will be twice as much food and clothing in the shops in East Germany as there is today.

Plenty of food

By 1955 there will be three times as much meat available as in 1950, five times as many eggs, and twice as much fat. In the clothing field the footwear bottleneck will have been overcome and nearly four times as many shoes will be coming out of the factories as today. Textile production will be more than doubled.

PROTEST WAVE SWEEPS W. GERMANY

Lightning strikes, impressive demonstrations, and sharp protest resolutions were the immediate answer in West Germany to the official announcement from Bonn that a new German army 400,000 men strong would shortly be conscripted.

News of protest strikes came from the Ruhr, where miners in the "Ewald" pit downed tools as a demonstration, from many factories in Bavaria, and from other parts of West Germany.

Young people who would be liable to conscription took a leading part in the demonstrations held in almost every town and city. In a typical procession in the mining town of Herne, (British Zone), the young demonstrators carried with them a cross with a steel helmet on it, and the simple inscription "1932", the age-group liable for the first call-up.

Trade unionists reacted particularly sharply to the statement made by Christian Fette, right-wing union leader, that the unions would support the formation of the new army. Union groups at 300 of Stuttgart's 375 engineering shops passed resolutions of protest at this treachery by their leaders, and the protest wave in the trade unions in Bavaria has been so strong that the union leadership has been forced to call a special district conference of union delegates for February 3rd to consider the situation.

Other evidence that West German workers were almost unanimously opposed to a new army came in protests against Fette's action from 110,000 workers in Nuremberg, 200 shop stewards of the Ludwigsburg district, and many other groups.

Coming storm

The conservative Munich newspaper "Sueddeutsche Zeitung", commenting on the latest developments, stated:

"The storm of protest which Christian Fette and his assistant Hans vom Hoff have raised among their own followers sounds like the first mutterings of a threatening thunder storm. The period of apparent quiet is over.

FACTS ON NEW ARMY

The new West German army will consist of 400,000 conscripts to begin with, West German War Minister Theodor Blank declared in a radio broadcast.

"Every young German capable of bearing arms will be legally liable to military service, but the actual call-up will depend upon our needs and the technical conditions prevailing" he said.

"I can already in my mind's eye see mothers saying to their sons 'Run along and pack your bags'. I am afraid things do not move as fast as all that.

"It is absolutely untrue to say that we are producing a German army under allied leadership. The defence treaty lays down that there shall be no discrimination.

"The uniform which the army will wear will simply be a practical dress for the work to be done."

"The opposition, which has long been in existence undisclosed, may force a reversal of the agreement reached between the trade union leadership and Chancellor Adenauer."

While Social Democratic, Communist, and non-party workers have cooperated in the strikes and protests against remilitarisation, Social Democratic leaders have confined themselves to explaining that they have no objection to a new army as such, but that they consider that the plan proposed by the Bonn government does not guarantee "full military equality" for Germany.

Offensive defensive

A Social Democratic spokesman, in a radio address on the North West German Radio on January 27th stated:

"We cannot give our full support to the new army unless we have an allied guarantee that the next war will not be fought out on German soil."

Social Democratic chairman Kurt Schumacher expressed the same idea even more clearly in September 1950, when he called for the formation of an army which would "defend" Germany by an offensive on the Vistula—some 200 miles east of the German frontier.

ACTION CALL

Mothers must refuse to let their sons serve in the new German army, the West German Plebiscite Committee stated in an appeal for action against the planned new army.

The committee last year carried through a plebiscite in West Germany in which, despite police interference, over four million people took part, more than ninety percent of them voting against remilitarisation.

On January 27th the committee met in Wuppertal, British Zone, to consider the position created by the official announcement of conscription for a new Germany army. Police raided the meeting and arrested some of those taking part, but the meeting was able to continue at another place, and issued a manifesto calling upon everyone to fight against the new measures.

German soldiers in colonies?

The General Treaty or "Peace Contract" drawn up between the western allies and West Germany provides that German troops may be used in any part of the world, Walter Uibricht, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic told a press conference in Berlin.

Walter Ulbricht announced some of the terms of the treaty, which has so far been kept secret by the West German government.

"The preamble of the treaty states that the area of central Europe has always been the scene of great crusades and the field of great and murderous battles" the Deputy Prime Minister stated. "This is scarcely the language of peace or of defensive policies.

"The preamble also states that the military and civil authorities of the western powers have devoted their particular attention to the 're-education of the German people'. This must obviously be the reason why they have restored Hitler's economic experts to their posts, released war criminals like Krupp and Flick, and take steps to form a new army.

"Article One of the treaty speaks of Germany's equal status, not of her equal status with other peoples, but rather of her equal status in a military block.

"Article Two deals with a non-terminable military agreement which obliges the 'Federal Republic' to contribute all that is in its power. This promise of help is not linked with any of the usual conditions.

"Article Four of the General Treaty states:

'The Federal Republic, in view of its special position, solemnly renounces certain sovereign rights ... In full agreement with the Federal Government the allied governments retain for themselves the right to re-assume full powers and the right of intervention if this is necessary.'

"In a further article the Federal Government recognises that all laws and regulations passed by the High Commissioners are sacred.

"The treaty leaves no doubt that the troops of the German army may be used at will in any country. The treaty thus simply confirms what we said a long time ago: that the German troops will simply be mercenaries at the service of the aggressive aims of the American bankers.

"The General Treaty is part of the preparation for a new war."

24,000 DOLLARS FOR UNION BOSS

West German union boss Hans vom Hoff, one of the most fervent supporters of the Bonn government's plan for a new army, has been offered a job on the "High Authority" which is to be established to run the Schuman Plan for pooling West Europe's iron and steel for rearmament, the West German "Deutsche Zeitung" reported.

The job pays $ 24,000 yearly, tax free.

Engineers turn down gun jobs

Metal workers and engineers from all parts of West Germany, meeting in conference in Duisburg, British Zone, on January 20th, called on all their colleagues to strike immediately any attempt were made to start arms production in their factories.

In Nuremberg the union committee of the "Vereinigten Metallhalbzeugwerke" stopped the production of cartridge cases for Verey lights by asking all workers to cease work on this order.

War Resisters want plebiscite

German supporters of militarism would be resoundingly beaten if a plebiscite were held on German remilitarisation, Ernst Lindig, Berlin chairman of the War Resisters International, told a press conference.

"We are neither for the east nor the west, but for peace" he stated. "The professional politicians, the big businessmen who make money out of war, and the press which they control, all hope to win advantages for themselves through remilitarisation."

Pastor Poelchau, speaking in the name of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, expressed his support for the efforts being made by the War Resisters International.

How crazy can you get?

"The announcement of selective service in West Germany makes it necessary to take steps to see to it that those persons who are not selected to serve in the new army do not suffer from an inferiority complex."

"Tagesspiegel", West Berlin (American licenced), 20. 1. 52

WHO LIVES BETTER?

East and West Budgets

Newspapers in Britain and America still sometimes refer to East Germany at "the zone of hunger", and scare their readers with tales of starved children begging for bread. Meat, fat and sugar are still rationed in the German Democratic Republic, but rations are generous, and prices of all basic foodstuffs so low that the average worker today eats considerably better than his opposite number in West Germany, where constantly rising prices impose a rationing system on all workers.

Here is the monthly food budget of Fritz Neumann, a foundry worker in Riesa, German Democratic Republic, compared with what a foundry worker in Essen would have to pay for the same goods. The quantities of rationed goods quoted are those which Herr Neumann can buy on his ration cards and those of his wife and two children. Weights are given in German pounds of 500 grammes, about two ounces heavier than the pound avoirdupois.

Monthly budgets

	East Germany marks	West Germany marks
10½ lbs bread	31.20	36.40
12 lbs peas, beans, macaroni	8.40	6.96
6 lbs meat (4 lbs pork, 4 lbs beef)	9.60	20.20
2½ lbs sausage	3.75	7.00
3 lbs butter	6.30	9.36
3 lbs margarine	3.45	3.45
2½ lbs dripping	3.55	5.00
12½ lbs sugar	6.75	10.25
7½ litres milk (about 13 pints)	1.95	1.43
8 lbs jam	8.40	11.60
35 lbs vegetables	10.50	9.80
5 lbs fruit	3.00	2.50
150 lbs spotatoes	7.50	13.50
1 cwt coal	3.96	5.56
	108.31	143.01

Not only can Fritz Neumann buy his basic foodstuffs cheaper than his colleague in West Germany, but he has other enormous advantages, many of which are impossible to express in monetary terms. He and his children have very cheap canteen meals in the factory and at school, and the whole family can spend their (paid) holidays at a trade union rest home on the Baltic coast for a nominal sum.

His children can study up to university standard without imposing any burden upon their parents, and Herr Neumann himself has unlimited chances of promotion if he is ready to continue his education after hours.

No unemployment

In one or two particulars his West German colleague still has an advantage — the clothes and shoes which he buy are probably of rather better quality than those available to Herr Neumann for the same money, for instance. But such differences are rapidly dwindling, and Herr Neumann knows that by raising the production in his factory he will also help to improve the quality of some goods which are still sub-standard. Above all Herr Neumann is free from one worry which his colleague in the west has all the time — the fear of unemployment or short time.

And what about wages? Herr Neumann takes a wage packet of 405 marks home at the end of the month, after his taxes and social insurance payments have been deducted. The sum includes 35 marks special performance payment because his brigade has exceeded the basic production figure. The West German worker engaged on exactly the same job takes home only 284 marks, and he has no urge to produce more than the usual quantity, because he knows that the steel he produces is being used to prepare for a new war.

(Statistics from "Neuer Weg" Berlin)

Synagogues restored in East Germany

Four synagogues in different parts of the German Democratic Republic were rebuilt during 1951 with the help of the authorities.

The government made a grant of 200,000 marks to the various Jewish communities through Deputy Prime Minister Otto Nutschke, who is in charge of church questions. In addition, considerable grants of money and materials from the provincial governments made it possible to rebuild and restore synagogues in Dresden, Leipzig, Halle and Schwerin.

The grant-in-aid from the government will be considerably larger in 1952, it was learned, and the synagogues in Magdeburg and Erfurt will be rebuilt and consecrated in the course of the year .

CITIZENS ACT AGAINST NEO-NAZIS

West German and West Berlin police brutally bludgeoned West Germans protesting against the showing of films made by notorious anti-Semite Veit Harlan in various cities in the past fortnight.

Biggest clash occurred in Freiburg, French Zone, where 200 university students demonstrated in the cinema where Veit Harlan's latest film "Hanna Amon" was being shown. Twelve students who were badly beaten by police and by gangs of toughs who aided the police have taken out summonses against those responsible.

Law student Karl Heinz Linke told reporters after the clash that police had stood by and watched passively while toughs shrieked "Jew Boy" and punched and kicked him. Another student, Raymund Mueller, reported police station scenes reminiscent of the nazi era. After being driven into the police station by cops swinging rubber truncheons he was punched full in the face. Policemen then forced him to go down on his hands and knees and wipe up the blood which was dripping from his wounds.

Queried about the clash by reporters, Freiburg police chief Bieser said: "My men were doing their duty."

A smaller clash occurred in Berlin, where a pro-nazi society attempted to show another Veit Harlan film "Immortal Beloved". Many hundreds of demonstrators, including representatives of the Jewish Community and of all democratic organisations blocked the street in front of the hall booked, and prevented the film being shown, despite police attempts to disperse them.

Rabbi Levinson, addressing the crowd, called on them to see to it that Veit Harlan, who had given great help to the nazis by making the film "Jew Suess" was not allowed to poison people once again. Harlan had become a symbol for the revival of anti-Semitism in West Germany, he warned.

Synagogue desecrated

Two West German customs officials in Bayreuth (American Zone), broke into the synagogue, forced open the Ark of the Covenant, and scattered the sacred scrolls on the floor, all under the pretext of looking for smuggled goods.

The men, who had a warrant to search quite a different building in a different street, and who had received no authorisation to search the synagogue, received a warning from their superior officer, but no other punishment.

PROFILE

ROBERT LEHR — HIMMLER IN TWEEDS

You would never guess that Dr. Robert Lehr, Minister of the Interior in the West German government, is 63 years old. Fresh-faced, wirey, and with a close cropped cavalry moustache, the man who aims to be West Germany's new Himmler looks as if he has just walked out of a huntin' and shootin' group in the pages of the London "Bystander" or the American "Esquire".

JAILING RADICALS

He may resemble a retired officer, but Dr. Lehr has always managed to avoid serving himself as a soldier, although his father was a general in the old Prussian army. Throughout the first world war he served as a police officer in the great industrial city of Dusseldorf, devoting his special attention to suppressing the activities of Socialists and trade unionists who were not enthusiastic supporters of the war. Writing himself about this period, Lehr stated: "I took energetic measures against the radical movement, had meetings watched, and set up a widespread net of informers. As a result of what I learned, the leaders were taken into protective custody."

MEETING HITLER

After the war he continued his work so successfully that in 1924 the big business magnates of the Ruhr made him Lord Mayor of Dusseldorf. Lehr became an active leader of the semi-fascist Stahlhelm organisation, built up a big private fortune by unexplained means, and was a member of the ill-famed Industrial Club in Dusseldorf, meeting place of all the Ruhr barons. It was here that in January 1932 the coal and steel magnates pledged financial support to Hitler, and after the meeting Robert Lehr was closeted with Hitler for a long private talk.

The headlines of Dusseldorf papers on January 27th 1932, speak for themselves — "Nazi Empire founded in Dusseldorf" — "Lord Mayor Lehr lines up with the Nazis" — "Hitler receives Hugenberg and Lehr."

Despite the help he had given to Hitler, Lehr was actually arrested for a short period in 1933 by mistake, and since then has claimed to be a victim of nazism. During his term in prison Lehr wrote the autobiography quoted from above, to prove to the Nazis that he was just as good a fascist as they were.

ARMS DIRECTOR

After his release Lehr was restored to Nazi favour by the grant of the title "Citizen of Honour" in 1938, and continued to sit on the board of directors of various big Ruhr armaments firms.

After the Nazi capitulation in 1945, Robert Lehr suddenly recalled his short term in prison, and found it easy to get a leading post in the British Zone police system, before his promotion to Minister of the Interior at the end of 1950.

POLICE MINISTER

On taking up the post he announced publicly that he would be first and foremost a Police Minister, that he would see to it that "freedom was not misused", and that he would look after the interests of former soldiers.

He has kept his word. The police forces throughout West Germany have been reinforced by para-military formations, progressive organisations like the Free German Youth and the Association of Victims of Nazism have been banned, and old soldiers are getting big pensions again. The new Himmler has not got concentration camps yet, but his plans for them are all worked out, reports from Bonn state.

Deutschland ueber Alles

The parliament of Lower Saxony (British Zone) has passed a motion calling upon the West German government to proclaim "Deutschland ueber alles", which Hitler's troops sang through the length and breadth of Europe, as the new West German national anthem.

One of the verses of this song calls for a Germany which stretches in the east to the river Memel (in the Soviet Union over 300 miles east of the present German frontier), and in the south to the river Adige in Italy, nearly 100 miles from the nearest point in Germany.

Free elections "anti-democratic"?

Fifty-nine persons were arrested in West Berlin in the last week of January for distributing copies of the draft Electoral Law approved by the parliament of the German Democratic Republic. The arrests were made under Military Government Order No. 501, which bans the propagation of "militaristic, fascist and anti-democratic" ideas.

The Electoral Law in question, a summary of which was given in GERMAN REPORT on January 18th, is based upon the electoral regulations of the pre-Hitler Weimar Republic, which was quoted by constitutional lawyers as "one of the most democratic in the world".

Professor Steiniger, legal adviser of the Civil Rights Committee which has taken on the defence of the persons arrested, warned West Berlin judges that some of the sentences which they had recently passed upon democrats had been based upon a perversion of law similar to that practiced in Hitler's courts.

"These judges should recall that at the Nuremberg War Criminals' trials it was ruled that orders from above could not absolve people from responsibility. They should remember that some of Hitler's judges have been put on trial and punished for what they did."

Nazi general comes home

Former Nazi general Alexander Andreas, sentenced to life imprisonment by a Greek court for war crimes, has returned to West Germany. The Bonn government paid Greece 12 million drachma to obtain his release.

Nazis sprung

Thirty-five more Nazi war criminals were released from Landsberg Jail by the American occupation authorities during the first three weeks of 1952, after they had been amnestied from the remainder of their sentences.

Recent releasees include Hitler's personal assistant Heinrich Lammers, who was serving a sentence of 20 years; former SS General Gottlob Berger, who ran the Nazi prisoner of war camps and was serving 25 years; Hitler's ambassador in Hungary, Eduard Veesemayer, serving 20 years; and General Lothar Rendulic, Balkan butcher, who was also in for 20 years.

Bonn blow at workers' parties

Ban for opposing new army

The West German Communist Party should be banned because it opposes the formation of a new West Germany army, according to Dr Robert Lehr, Minister of the Interior in Bonn.

In the official application to the Federal Constitutional Court asking for the ban, Dr Lehr stated: "The most dangerous attack on the stability of the Federal Republic and the free democratic order is the so-called plebiscite carried out in West Germany".

The plebiscite, which was carried out in West Germany by Peace Committees, with the support of all peace-lovers including the Communists, posed the simple question "Are you opposed to the remilitarisation of Germany and in favour of a peace treaty in 1951". Of the over four million queried, over ninety percent stated that they opposed remilitarisation.

Dangerous attack

This plebiscite has now been described by the Bonn government as "the most dangerous attack on the stability of the Federal Republic".

The official application asked the Federal Constitutional Court to rule the Communist Party unconstitutional, to dissolve it and all its groupings, to forbid the formation of alternative organizations, and to confiscate all its property.

Main points of the ban application, quoted direct from Dr. Lehr's text, are:

1. "The use of Marxist-Leninist-Stalinist theory by the Communist Party would mean a limitation or removal of the free democratic order in the Federal Republic, and endangers the existence of the Federal Republic."
2. "The internal organisation of the Communist Party is a breach of free democratic order."
3. "The realities in the Soviet Occupation Zone are completely opposite to the free democratic order existing in the Federal Republic."

Unity propaganda

4. "Main points of the Communist activity are propaganda for the unity of Germany, for the Oder-Neisse border as frontier of peace, and against what they term 'the remilitarisation of Germany'."

In addition the application states that the Communist Party, by charging that the Federal Republic was preparing for aggressive war, "was undermining the confidence of the people in the moral and legal treatment of the difficult security problem."

Another charge was that "Communist members of parliament have given their express support to the slogan of active resistance to remilitarisation."

Fight war

In a written reply to these charges, also submitted to the Federal Constitutional Court, Max Reimann, Chairman of the Communist Party of Germany, admitted with obvious pride that his party was in the forefront of the active fight against remilitarisation and a new war. He showed that it was the Bonn Government and not the Communist Party which was acting in an unconstitutional manner by preparing for war.

After destroying the arguments of the ban application one by one, Max Reiman gave this warning:

"The application for a ban on the Communist Party of Germany is a warning to all patriotic and democratic forces in our people. The Hitler regime, using the same arguments which the Federal government uses today, banned not only the Communist Party but also the Social Democratic Party and the middle-class parties and drowned them in blood.

Imitation Hitler

"Adenauer wants to imitate Hitler and Goering. His policy will endanger the freedom and the lives of Germany's neighbours. But 1952 is not 1933. The forces of peace and democracy have grown greatly in the whole world, and in Germany too. Today the German people know who their enemies are."

Oppose ban

Fifteen Social Democratic members of the Bonn Parliament lined up with the 14 Communist members on January 16th in support of an application to cancel the threatened ban on the Communist Party.

The other Social Democratic members, apparently forgetting that in 1933 Hitler's ban on the Communists hat been swiftly followed by a ban on the Social Democratic Party, abstained from voting.

Outside parliament many local groups of Socialists have pledged their support in fighting the ban.

NEWS FLASHES

Starring Goering's daughter

War criminal Goering's 13 year old daughter Edda will be the star of a film to be made in West Germany this spring. "Her name will ensure the success of the film in Germany and abroad" stated producer and author Erich Ebermayer.

Peace doves

Bavarian carrier-pigeon breeders, meeting at Ansbach, American Zone, resolved to refuse to put their pets at the disposal of a new West German army.

Sugar for Flood Victims

Two hundred tons of sugar have been dispatched to the flood areas of northern Italy as a gift from the People's Solidarity organisation of the German Democratic Republic.

Nazi musician plays

Hermann Nie's, former head of the musical branch of Hitler's compulsory labour service, wore his old Nazi uniform when conducting a concert organised by the neo-nazi Socialist Reichs Party in Bremen on January 24th. Police made no attempt to interfere while he play nazi marching songs.

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A floating cinema, library and reading room has been provided for bargees in the Magdeburg area, East Germany.

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An East German railwayman named Ostermann has cut the time needed for cleaning locomotive boilers from two hours to ten seconds by the use of a new method.

•

New-style arm chairs and couches upholstered with stout rubber cords instead of with steel springs are being produced by a big privately owned furniture factory in Erfurt, German Democratic Republic.

•

A complete new village consisting of 29 farms with all farm buildings and equipment, has been constructed in Rambow, near Wismar, German Democratic Republic in the past six month. All the farmers are either former land workers who have benefited from the land reform, or resettlers from Germany's former eastern territories.

•

Three out of five peasants in the East German province of Sachsen-Anhalt are taking part in lectures and training courses this winter, equipping themselves with the knowledge which they need to improve crop yields.

A GIRL LEAPS TO HER DEATH

by Rosemarie Rehan

In the shadow of the great 12th century cathedral in the West German town of Freising lived the lively 19 year old student Elisabeth Holzer. She had just passed her final exams and was hoping to go to Munich soon to attend the university. Life was just beginning for her.

One day late in 1951 Elisabeth went to the cathedral. She was a Catholic, a regular church-goer, but this time she did not stop to confide her hopes and her dreams to the Madonna. Slowly but deliberately she mounted the winding staircase leading to the spire.

A life ends

Passers-by saw the slight girlish figure perched in the narrow window frame high in the tower. From this window there is a wonderful view of the fertile Bavarian landscape, of the picturesque old town and its narrow streets. But Elisabeth was not looking at the landscape. Someone warned a priest. He hurried up the winding steps, and was just about to grasp Elisabeth's arm when without a word she threw herself out of the narrow window. Her life had ended before it had properly begun. Why, Elisabeth?

The West German newspapers supplied the answer: "She had been refused a scholarship for university study. Three farewell letters were found in her pockets." And the Bavarian Minister of Education, in his smart suit, stated coolly: "A maximum of 100 scholarships are extended yearly to the best students. This year only 61 were found worthy of the honour."

100 scholarships

The West German state devotes more than 50 % of its budget to war purposes. It is therefore not surprising that Bavaria, with nearly a quarter of the total population of West Germany, can grant a maximum of only 100 scholarships yearly. Even this ridiculously small figure appears to be too high for the enemies of the nation who occupy the ministerial armchairs, and so they proclaim that they cannot find enough young people "worthy of the honour".

Elisabeth did not manage to go to Munich to study, to the Munich of 1951, American-occupied Munich, where half-starved students work at carpet beating, where prominent artists eke out their living by appearing in night clubs. She did not choose the American way of life, but rather the American way of death — 22,000 Americans committed suicide in 1950, according to American magazines.

Lives worth living

No single decent German can feel at ease as long as young people, in Freising, in Cologne, in Hanover, in Hamburg, throw away their lives as if they were not worth living. We do not intend to allow our young generation to become suicides in peace-time and murderers in war-time. In contrast to Adenauer and his American bosses, we consider German youth worthy of the honour of developing their rich talents so that they can serve the people. We want our young people to look at such historical monuments as the spire of the Freising cathedral with the shining eyes of artists, of the architects of new cities; not with the dull gaze of potential suicides judging from which height it is best to jump.

That is why we appeal to all the young people like Elisabeth in West Germany, near despair under the jack-boots of the occupation powers, to hold on.

Jobless youth

It is naturally difficult for the 708,000 young people who left school this year, all too many of whom have had to join the 450,000 who left school last year and have not yet found jobs. Of course it is hard for the 13,000 students who, according to the "Deutsche Woche" of Munich, cannot afford to heat their rooms. It is difficult for the "lucky" four percent of students who hitherto received scholarships ranging between 15 marks and 90 marks, most of which will now be cancelled, according to the "Neue Ruhrzeitung". It is appallingly difficult for the 12 % of all West German students who are suffering from T. B. because of the conditions under which they have to live and work, according to the British controlled newspaper "Die Welt".

We understand these diffuculties, but we can stretch out our hands to all these young people and say: "You are not alone". Here, in the German Democratic Republic, 72 % of all students were in receipt of grants. But even this was not good enough for our government. According to new regulations which came into force on September 1st 1951, all young people who matriculate with the grade "good" or "very good" receive proficiency allowances. The basic grant for the children of workers, peasants and intellectuals amounts to 180 marks (200 marks in Berlin), which can be increased by up to 80 marks by proficiency allowances. All other students receive a basic grant of 130 marks if they pass their intermediate examinations with the grade "good", and 180 marks if they pass with the grade "very good". If the faculty in which the students study is of particular importance for the Five Year Plan, then all allowances are increased by 20 marks.

That, we believe, gives our students the chance to live a worthy life, and study to help build a better future in a united Germany, where no young man or woman is driven into a senseless death.

(Condensed from "Neues Deutschland", Berlin)

PRIZE FOR BEST LOVE STOY

Famous novelist Anna Seghers, holder of the Stalin International Peace Prize, has offered a special award of 5000 marks to the young German author who writes the finest love story set in contemporary surroundings.

BRITISH OPERA IN BERLIN

British composer Alan Bush arrived in Berlin late in January to prepare the world premiere for his opera "Wat Tyler" over the broadcasting system of the German Democratic Republic. The opera, which deals with the thirteenth century English peasant revolt, received a prize at the 1951 Festival of Britain but has never had a full-scale performance before.

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Steps to German Unity

October 1950. The Foreign Ministers of the USSR, the European People's Democracies, and the German Democratic Republic, meeting in Prague, proposed that East and West Germans should meet in an All-German Constituent Council to prepare the formation of an all-German provisional government and take part in consultations on a peace treaty and the withdrawal of occupation troops.

November 30th 1950. Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, wrote to Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of the Federal Republic, stating:

"We propose that each government should name six representatives to discuss the creation of an All-German Constituent Council."

Adenauer's conditions

January 15th 1951. Adenauer, after seven weeks silence, named as preliminary conditions for all-German elections:

1. "The freedom and security usual in a civilised country must be guaranteed all Germans living in the Soviet Zone",

2. The East German Law for the Protection of Peace, which made war-mongering a punishable offence, must be repealed.

3. The People's Police in East Germany were "a threat to the German population and a military force" and must be dissolved.

January 20th 1950. The People's Chamber (Parliament) of the German Democratic Republic, in a message to the Federal Parliament stated that their representatives in the proposed All-German Constituent Council would be authorised:

1. "To deal in practical terms with the conditions for uniting Germany and in particular with the question raised by Dr Adenauer of the creation of a state of law and a free form of government in the whole of Germany."

2. "To negotiate on changes in the Law for the Protection of Peace."

Talks on police

3. "To negotiate on the numbers, the armaments and the distribution of the police in the whole of Germany. The German Democratic Republic will, if necessary, reduce the strength of the police in East Germany in accordance with principles which would also apply in West Germany."

4. "To sign a joint declaration forbidding the remilitarisation of Germany."

The East German representatives would also be ready to discuss the conditions for free elections, a peace treaty and the withdrawal of occupation troops.

March 9th 1951. Adenauer and Kurt Schumacher, as leader of the Social-Democratic opposition in the Federal Parliament, both rejected the offer of the People's Chamber.

September 15th 1951. The People's Chamber adressed a renewed appeal to the Federal Parliament stating:

"We propose the holding of joint discussions to decide upon free all-German elections and the speeding-up of a peace treaty."

September 18th 1951. Adenauer in a radio speech avoided giving a direct answer, stating instead:

"We want the integration of Europe. This is the way which will lead to the re-establishment of German unity."

Fourteen points

September 27th 1951. Adenauer told the Federal Parliament that elections were mainly a question for the great powers, and rejected the idea of pre-election discussions between East and West Germans. He proposed a 14 point programme of conditions for elections:

1. Germany to form one electoral district. 2. Freedom of political activity. 3. Removal of travel restrictions. 4. Immunity for candidates. 5. No persecution for political activity. 6. Freedom of assembly. 7. Freedom of the press. 8. Secret polling. 9. Screened polling booths. 10. Compulsory secret voting. 11. Public vote counting. 12. International control. 13. Similar international control bodies throughout country. 14. Right of appeal to control for every individual.

Straight reply

October 10th 1951. The People's Chamber, in a message to the Federal Parliament, stated:

"We believe that the majority of the 14 points are acceptable. Apart from these questions there are a number of other questions which must be considered at All-German Discussions ... such as international control of the elections."

The People's Chamber asked for a straight reply to its proposal for such discussions, made originally on September 15th.

October 17th 1951. The Federal Parliament rejected the appeal for discussions, despite support for unity moves from Social Democratic, Centre and Communist speakers.

November 2nd 1951. The People's Chamber appointed electoral commission to work out draft electoral law.

November 2nd 1951. President Wilhelm Pieck of the German Democratic Republic wrote to West German President Theodor Heuss proposing a personal meeting to help prepare an All-German discussion. His letter stated:

"An investigation in all parts of Germany of the conditions for free elections could best be carried out by a commission composed of representatives of East and West Germany under four power control."

Internal affair

November 7th 1951. President Heuss rejected the proposal.

December 11th 1951. Dr Lothar Bolz, Deputy Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic, addressing the Second Political Committees of the UN General Assembly in Paris stated:

"We consider that the holding of free All-German elections for the National Assembly is an internal matter for the German people themselves. The creation of a UN investigation commission would represent an intervention in the internal peaceful affairs of the Germans."

January 9th 1952. The People's Chamber unanimously adopted Electoral Law based closely on the pre-Hitler electoral law, and meeting in most respects Adenauer's 14 points of September 27th 1951. (For summary of law see GERMAN REPORT No. 1, p. 2).

The People's Chamber appointed five representatives to meet West German delegates to discuss the suitability of the law for all-German elections.

January 17th 1952. The All-German Commission of the Federal Parliament rejected the Electoral Law on the grounds that it "benefited the Communists and their satellites".

This page gives a condensed summary of the most important moves for German unity made by the government of the German Democratic Republic in the past fifteen months, and the replies given by the West German government.

One by one the objections raised by the western politicians have been met, but Adenauer, intent only upon maintaining and re-arming the separate West German state, has rejected each new offer.

Outside Germany, during the period covered by this summary, the Soviet Union has consistently supported moves for a peaceful united Germany, while the British and American governments have taken measures to speed up West German rearmament.

Inside the country millions of ordinary Germans have expressed their support for really free, democratic all-German elections to guarantee a united Germany which will live at peace with its neighbours.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Bath bears message

The men and women working voluntary shifts clearing up the rubble of Berlin, are generally cheerful and rowdy, singing and shouting as they work. I stopped to ask the reason when I passed the ruins of a big block of flats on my way home and saw the volunteer crew from a nearby factory working in unaccustomed silence.

One of the girls pointed to a small knot of people staring at something on the ground. I joined the group and found myself looking at a battered tin bathtub, which had been pulled from the ruins a few minutes earlier. Inside the bath tub was a message, looking as fresh as when it was written on that February day in 1945 when this house went up in smoke in a big fire-bomb raid.

"Mummy is dead"

In a round childish hand the message said "Dear Daddy, Mummy is dead and we have gone to Aunt Emmi's." That was all. All of us in that group shuddered as we read the message, which brought back again so clearly the nights under the bombs, and the days at the end of the war when every wall left standing in the blitzed cities was covered with similar messages, scrawled up in the hope that they might bring scattered families together once again.

The Berliners on that bomb site were quiet yesterday evening, but they were working harder and with more concentration than ever before. They knew that they were clearing the way for a better and more peaceful Berlin.

And I do not think that they were forgetting Coventry and Lidice and Guernica and Kiev as they worked. The books, the newspapers, the films and the radio in East Germany have done a fine job in re-educating the people and making them aware of what they allowed Hitler to do, and what most of them had in fact helped Hitler to do. Now they were helping to make good.

"Times" takes cake

This week's GERMAN REPORT silver-plated mud-pie for the most Nelsonic achievement in the field of German reporting goes to a dramatic critic of the "Times" of London. Clapping his telescope firmly to his blind eye, this dramatic critic surveyed the theatrical position in Berlin on January 22nd, and then wrote firmly *"Mediocrity has settled down upon the whole theatrical scene."*

Some paragraph earlier the critic had brushed off the theatres in the Democratic Sector of Berlin with these words: *"The theatres there try to relieve an otherwise tedious programme of 'activist plays' with revivals of ..... the world's greatest dramatists who are represented as mere propagandists for 'world peace'. Consequently the West Berlin dramatic critics are not sent to new productions in the 'democratic sector' as the Soviet sector fondly calls itself."*

Since West Berlin critics, playing ostrich, have erected their own iron curtain and refuse to come to the Democratic Sector of Berlin to see some of the fine plays being staged here, this "Times" correspondent apparently feels obliged to join them.

An Invitation

It is of course just possible that he has found a certain amount of difficulty about getting tickets, since theatre is booming in East Berlin. If this should be the reason I would be glad to invite him to join me at the theatre as my guest. We could go to see "Karhan's Brigade", a brilliant Czech comedy about the activist movement in the factories, which is, incidentally, the only "activist play" which I could locate on this week's theatre programme.

I should enjoy seeing once again "Mother Courage" by Bert Brecht, which has been running for nearly four years, and which I have already seen half a dozen times. Before the West Berlin drama critics let down their private iron curtain even they were forced to admit unanimously that this play, an epic of the Thirty Years War, was one of the finest things they had ever seen in the theatre.

But if these plays are too political or too "peace-loving" for the "Times" theatre critic, then I shall invite him to accompany me to Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" (good) and "As You Like It" (only fair).

There is plenty more on the list: "Mrs. Warren's Profession" by Bernard Shaw; "Mother" by Gorki, adapted for the stage by Bert Brecht, which the supporters of avant-garde drama raved over in the twenties; two or three Soviet and Polish plays of varying quality, and a whole shoal of assorted classics — Goethe, Schiller, Molière, Kleist and others. Some of these are first class productions, better than I personally have seen in any other city, some are middling, and one or two are down-right bad.

If the "Times" critic would like to drop me a line, I shall be glad to show him. To make sure that he is not out of pocket, I shall pay for his programme and for putting his umbrella in the cloak-room as well.

New York paper's plot

While on the subject of theatre, I should mention that on January 8th the "New York Times" was very agitated because "Peter Grimes", a new opera by the British composer Benjamin Britten, was being shown in the German Democratic Republic. The "New York Times", instead of using the telescope and blind-eye technique, used one of those journalistic machines, which unfailingly turn up "secret orders". Secret orders had been given to perform the opera all over East Germany as an attack on the western way of life, the New York paper said.

It is awfully hard to please the millionaire press. First they scream because you do not devote your time to "western culture" and then get agitated because you do. The "secret order" is of course a complete invention. So far "Peter Grimes" has been presented only in the City Opera House of Schwerin where it had quite a good reception. None of the other 25 theatres in East Germany which present opera had yet considered putting it on their programme, music experts in Berlin told me.

That blind eye

One more example of the Nelsonic school of reporting. The Manchester Guardian Weekly of January 10th, in an otherwise sensible article about displaced persons, remarked in passing: *"The town of Rath in North Rhine Westphalia has the enviable and unusual record for Germany today of full employment."*

Unusual except for all the towns and villages in one third of Germany, the German Democratic Republic, where full employment has been the order of the day for several years.

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